

# Historic Zion Lutheran Church

## DIVINE SERVICE FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

9:00 am ..... Sunday, January 7, 2024

### RECEIVING OF THE LORD'S SUPPER AT ZION

As intended by Christ and as practiced by the one, holy, catholic and apostolic church throughout her history, "Closed Communion" is observed in this congregation, in which the Lord's Supper is distributed only to those:

- (a) who have been **baptized** in the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit;
- (b) who have been **instructed** in the truth of Holy Scripture as taught in the Lutheran Confessions, who have been **confirmed** in this Lutheran faith, and who now confess the same doctrines that are taught in this congregation, holding membership in a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod;
- (c) who **believe that in this sacrament the real body and blood of Christ are truly distributed to them and orally received by them**, bestowing on them the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation;
- (d) who **sincerely repent** of all their sins, and desire to receive God's forgiveness in this holy meal.

Guests at our services, before receiving the sacrament, are requested to affirm these facts with one of our pastors. Thank you for honoring our practice. If you are looking for a church home, would like to be a member of Zion, or would like to learn more about the Christian Faith, please speak to one of our pastors about our membership classes.

✠ = *appropriate to make the baptismal sign of the cross*  
When "rise" or "kneel" is indicated, it is appropriate to sit if needed

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**Greeting And Announcements:** *The Lord be with you!* ..... **And also with you!**

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*The Congregation rises, turns towards the entrance of the nave, and faces the Cross of Christ, the reminder of Christ's promise to come and dwell among His people as they are gathered in His name.*

### Invocation

*In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. .... Amen!*

**Entrance Hymn ..... As With Gladness ..... Burgundy Hymn 397: St. 1-3**

[ Sing stanzas 1, 2, & 3. ]

### The Office of Confession of Sins and Absolution

*Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God, our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.*

[ Kneel ]

*Our help is in the name of the Lord ..... Who made heaven and earth.*  
*I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord. .... And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.*

*O almighty God, merciful Father, ..... I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.*

*Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. .... Amen!*

**Collect for the Epiphany of our Lord:** *Let us pray: O God, by the leading of a star You made known Your only-begotten Son to the Gentiles. Lead us, who know You by faith, to enjoy in heaven the fullness of Your divine presence; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. .... Amen!*

[ Rise and face the Processional Cross for the Gospel Procession. ]

## Sequence Hymn ..... The Star Proclaims ..... Burgundy Hymn 399: Sts 1 & 2

[ Sing stanzas 1 & 2 BEFORE the Gospel. ]

### Holy Gospel ..... St. Matthew 2:1-12

[ The Gospel is announced. ]

[ The Gospel is proclaimed. ]



Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord!



Praise be to Thee, O Christ!

### Hymn ..... The Star Proclaims ..... Burgundy Hymn 399: Sts 3 & 5

[ Sing stanzas 3 & 5 AFTER the Gospel. ]

### Kyrie



Ky - ri - e — e - lei-son. Lord, have mer - cy.



Chri - ste — e - lei - son. Christ have mer - cy.



Ky - ri - e — e - lei - son. Lord, — have mer - cy.

### Gloria in Excelsis



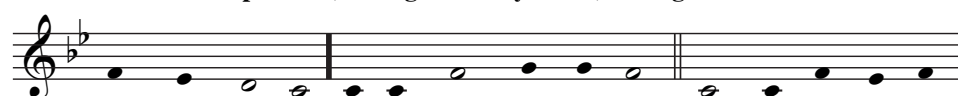
Glo - ry to God in the high - est. And on earth peace,



a - mong men with whom He is pleased. We praise Thee, we bless Thee,



we wor-ship Thee, we glo - ri - fy Thee, we give thanks to Thee for



Thy great glo - ry. O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God, the Fa - ther Al -



migh-ty. O Lord, the on - ly be - got - ten Son, Je - sus Christ,



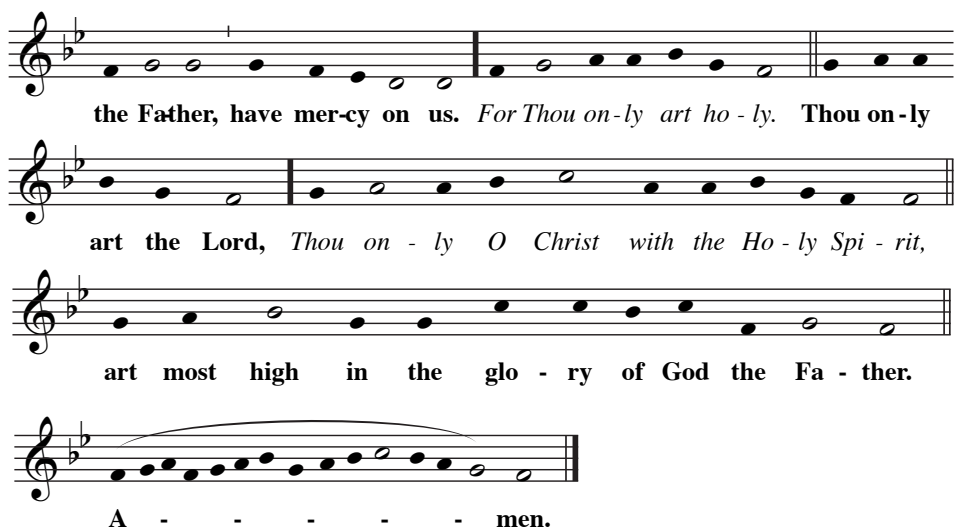
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Fa - ther, who ta - kest a - way the



sin of the world, have mer - cy on us. Thou who ta - kest a - way the sin of the world,



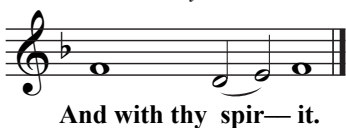
re - ceive our prayer. Thou who sit - test at the right hand of God



the Father, have mer-cy on us. For Thou on-ly art ho-ly. Thou on-ly  
 art the Lord, Thou on - ly O Christ with the Ho - ly Spi - rit,  
 art most high in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.  
 A - - - - - men.

**Salutation**

*The Lord be with you.*



And with thy spir— it.

**Collect for the First Sunday after Epiphany:** *Father in heaven, at the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River You proclaimed Him Your beloved Son and anointed Him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized in His Name faithful in their calling as Your children and inheritors with Him of everlasting life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*



A ——— men!

[ Be Seated ] + **The Office of the Word of God +**

**Old Testament Reading..... Genesis 1:1-5**

[ After the reading ] *This is the word of the Lord.* ..... Thanks be to God.

**Epistle of the Day ..... Romans 6:1-11**

[ After the reading ] *This is the word of the Lord.* ..... Thanks be to God.

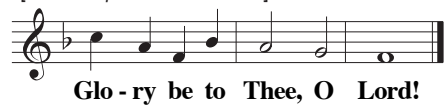
[ Rise and face the Processional Cross for the Gospel Procession. ]

**Alleluia Sequence ..... We Know That Christ Is Raised ... Burgundy Hymn 603**

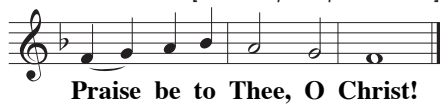
**Holy Gospel ..... St. Mark 1:4-11**

[ The Gospel is announced. ]

[ The Gospel is proclaimed. ]



Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord!



Praise be to Thee, O Christ!

**Confession of Faith (The Nicene Creed)**

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, Begotten, not made, Being of one substance with the Father, By whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven

[ Bow ] And was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, And was made man;

And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried; And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures; And ascended into heaven,

And sits at the right hand of the Father; And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead; Whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, Who spoke by the Prophets. And I believe in one Holy Christian and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, And I look for the resurrection of the dead, And the life of the world to come. Amen!

[ Be Seated ]

**Hymn of the Day ..... To Jordan Came ..... Burgundy Hymn 406**

[ All sing stanzas 1 & 2; Men alone sing stanza 3; Women alone sing stanza 4; All sing stanzas 5, 6, & 7. ]

**Sermon**

[ Rise ] **Prayer of the Church**

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs: [ After each petition ]:..., Lord, in Your mercy: ..... **Hear our prayer.**

[ After the final prayer ]:..., one God, now and forever ..... **Amen.**

[ Be Seated ] **Offerings, Voluntary**

[ Rise ] **Offertory Hymn ..... Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God**

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a  
 right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from Thy  
 pres - ence; and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it from me.  
 Re-store to me the joy of Thy sal - va - tion; and up - hold me  
 with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

+ The Office of the Sacrament of the Altar +

**Preface**

*The Lord be with you.*

*Lift up your hearts.*

And with thy spir - it. We lift them up un-to the Lord.

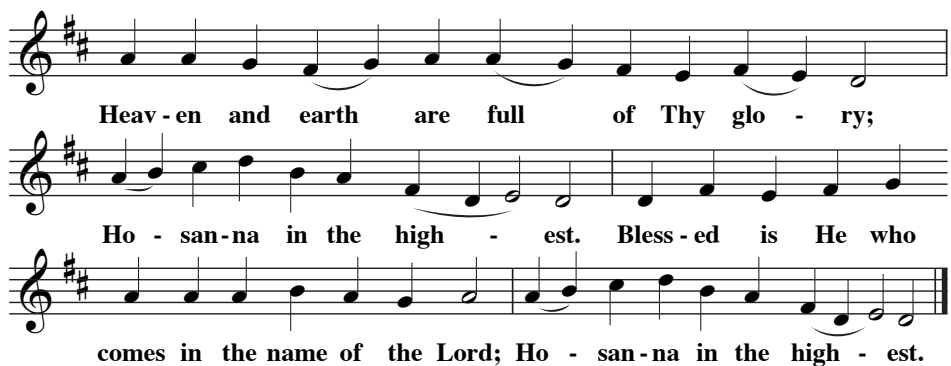
*Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.*

It is meet and right so to do.

**Proper Preface for the Baptism of our Lord, Sanctus**

*It is truly meet, right and salutary . . . . . ever more praising You and saying:*

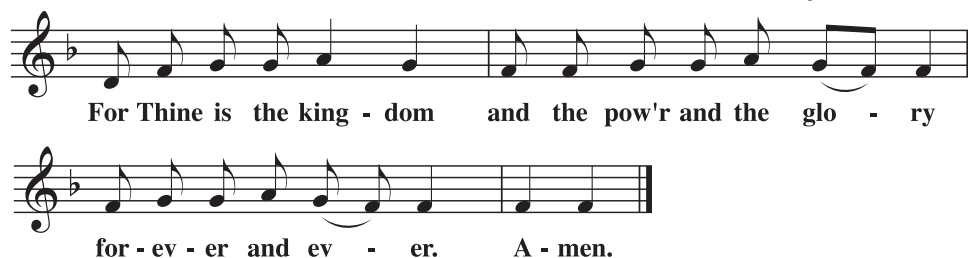
Ho - ly, ho - ly ho - ly, Lord God of hosts:



Heav-en and earth are full of Thy glo-ry;  
 Ho-san-na in the high-est. Bless-ed is He who  
 comes in the name of the Lord; Ho-san-na in the high-est.

[ Kneel ] **Lord's Prayer**

[ Pastor chants: ] *Our Father who art in heaven; . . . . . but deliver us from evil.*



For Thine is the king-dom and the pow'r and the glo-ry  
 for-ev-er and ev-er. A-men.

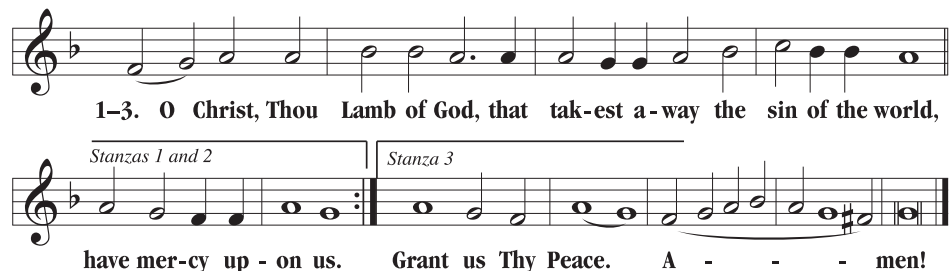
**Words of Institution, Pax Domini**

*The peace of the Lord be with you always!*



A - men.

**Agnus Dei**



1-3. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world,  
 have mer-cy up-on us. Grant us Thy Peace. A - - - men!

[ Be Seated ]

**Distribution Hymns** ..... **Jesus, Once with Sinners ... Burgundy Hymn 404**  
**God's Own Child** ..... **Burgundy Hymn 594**

[ Rise ] **Eucharistic Benediction**

*The Body and Blood of your Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting! ✠ Depart in Peace! ..... Amen!*

**Post-Communion Canticle** ..... **The Nunc Dimittis**



1. Lord now— lettest Thou Thy  
 servant, de-part— in — peace, ac-cord-ing to Thy Word.  
 2. For mine\_\_ eyes have seen  
 Thy Salvation,  
 which Thou hast pre-pared\_\_ be— fore the face of all\_\_ people.



3. a Light to light-en the Gen-tiles and the Glo- ry of Thy peo-ple Is - - - - ra-el.



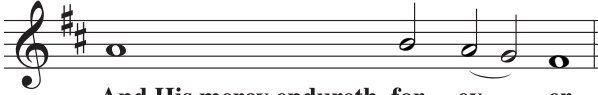
4. Glo—ry\_\_\_ be to the Father, and to\_\_\_ the\_\_\_ Son, and to the Ho- ly Ghost.



5. As it\_\_\_ was in the beginning, is now, and e—ver shall be, world with-out end. A-men.

### Post Communion Rite

*Oh, give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good.*



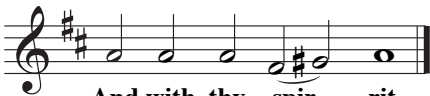
And His mercy endureth for - ev — er.

### Prayer of Thanksgiving ... now and forever.



A — men.

*The Lord be with you.*



And with thy spir — rit.

*Bless we the Lord.*



Thanks be to God.

### Benediction

*The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.*



A-men, A-men, A - men.

*During the Recessional, the Congregation turns and faces the Processional Cross, the symbol of Christ's promise to remain with and lead His people as they now go and live in the world in His name.*

### Recessional Hymn ..... O Morning Star ..... Burgundy Hymn 395

[ All sing stanzas 1 & 2; Women alone sing stanza 3; Men alone sing stanza 4; All sing stanzas 5, & 6 ]

### Postlude

## **The Gospel for the Feast of the Epiphany of our Lord is Matthew 2:1-12**

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

“And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who will shepherd my people Israel.”

Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

## **Readings for the First Sunday after the Epiphany The Baptism of our Lord**

### **The Old Testament Reading is Genesis 1:1-5**

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

## **The Epistle is Romans 6:1-11**

What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

## **The Gospel is Mark 1:4-11**

John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."



# Hymns for the First Sunday after the Epiphany

## The Baptism of our Lord

### LSB397 As with Gladness Men of Old (st. 1-3)

William C. Dix

1. As with gladness men of old Did the guiding star behold;  
As with joy they hailed its light, Leading onward, beaming bright;  
So, most gracious Lord, may we Evermore be led by Thee.
2. As with joyful steps they sped, Savior, to Thy lowly bed,  
There to bend the knee before Thee, whom heav'n and earth adore;  
So may we with willing feet Ever seek Thy mercy seat.
3. As they offered gifts most rare At Thy cradle, rude and bare,  
So may we with holy joy, Pure and free from sin's alloy,  
All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heav'nly King.

### LSB399 The Star Proclaims the King Is Here

Coelius Sedulius

1. The star proclaims the King is here;  
But, Herod, why this senseless fear?  
For He who offers heav'nly birth  
Seeks not the kingdoms of this earth.
2. The eastern sages saw from far  
And followed on His guiding star;  
And, led by light, to light they trod  
And by their gifts confessed their God.

*The Epiphany Gospel is read. Then we sing the following stanzas.*

3. Within the Jordan's sacred flood  
The heav'nly Lamb in meekness stood  
That He, of whom no sin was known,  
Might cleanse His people from their own.
- △ 5. For this Thy glad epiphany  
All glory, Jesus, be to Thee,  
Whom with the Father we adore,  
And Holy Spirit evermore.

## **LSB603 We Know That Christ Is Raised**

**John B. Geyer**

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1. We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.  
Embraced by death, He broke its fearful hold;  
And our despair He turned to blazing joy. Alleluia!
2. We share by water in His saving death.  
Reborn, we share with Him an Easter life  
As living members of a living Christ. Alleluia!
3. The Father's splendor clothes the Son with life.  
The Spirit's power shakes the Church of God.  
Baptized, we live with God the Three in One. Alleluia!

## **LSB406 To Jordan Came the Christ, our Lord**

**Martin Luther**

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1. To Jordan came the Christ, Our Lord, To do His Father's pleasure;  
Baptized by John, the Father's Word Was given us to treasure.  
This heav'nly washing now shall be A cleansing from transgression  
And by His blood and agony Release from death's oppression.  
A new life now awaits us.
2. O hear and mark the message well, For God Himself has spoken.  
Let faith, not doubt, among us dwell And so receive this token.  
Our Lord here with His Word endows Pure water, freely flowing.  
God's Holy Spirit here avows Our kinship while bestowing  
The Baptism of His blessing.
- M 3. These truths on Jordan's banks were shown By mighty word and wonder.  
The Father's voice from heaven came down, Which we do well to ponder:  
"This man is My beloved Son, In whom My heart has pleasure.  
Him you must hear and Him alone, And trust in fullest measure  
The word that He has spoken."
- W 4. There stood the Son of God in love, His grace to us extending;  
The Holy Spirit like a dove Upon the scene descending;  
The triune God assuring us, With promises compelling,  
That in our Baptism He will thus Among us find a dwelling  
To comfort and sustain us.
5. To His disciples spoke the Lord, "Go out to ev'ry nation,  
And bring to them the living Word And this My invitation:  
Let ev'ryone abandon sin And come in true contrition

To be baptized and thereby win Full pardon and remission  
And heav'nly bliss inherit.”

6. But woe to those who cast aside This grace to freely given;  
They shall in sin and shame abide And to despair be driven.  
For born in sin, their works must fail, Their striving saves them never;  
Their pious acts do not avail, And they are lost forever.  
Eternal death their portion.
7. All that the mortal eye beholds Is water as we pour it.  
Before the eye of faith unfolds The pow'r of Jesus' merit.  
For here it sees the crimson flood To all our ills bring healing.  
The wonders of His precious blood The love of God revealing,  
Assuring His own pardon.

#### **LSB404 Jesus, Once with Sinners Numbered**

Stephen P. Starke

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1. Jesus, once with sinners numbered, Had no blemish of His own;  
In the waters of the Jordan His true worth and work were shown:  
Heaven opened and the Spirit There descended like a dove,  
As the Father's voice resounded, “Hear My Son, the One I love.”
2. John confessed Him as the Savior—“Look, the sinless Lamb of God!”  
Yet he dared not loose the sandals Of the One God's love had shod.  
Oh, how fair the feet of Jesus, Bringing news of peace to us,  
Christ, the herald of salvation, Preaching mercy from the cross:
3. This the baptism that our Savior Greatly longed to undergo;  
This the crimson cleansing needed So the world God's love might know;  
This the mission of Messiah As He stepped from Jordan's stream,  
He, the chosen and anointed Son of God, sent to redeem.
4. Jesus, once with sinners numbered, Full obedience was Your path;  
You, by death, have consecrated Water in this saving bath:  
Dying to the sin of Adam, Rising to a life of grace;  
We are counted with the righteous, Over us the cross You trace.

#### **LSB594 God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It**

Erdmann Neumeister

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1. God's own child, I gladly say it: I am baptized into Christ!  
He, because I could not pay it, gave my full redemption price.  
Do I need earth's treasures many? I have one worth more than any  
That brought me salvation free, Lasting to eternity!

2. Sin, disturb my soul no longer: I am baptized into Christ!  
I have comfort even stronger: Jesus' cleansing sacrifice.  
Should a guilty conscience seize me, since my baptism did release me  
In a dear forgiving flood, sprinkling me with Jesus' blood?
3. Satan, hear this proclamation: I am baptized into Christ!  
Drop your ugly accusation; I am not so soon enticed.  
Now that to the font I've traveled, all your might has come unraveled,  
And, against your tyranny, God, my Lord, unites with me!
4. Death, you cannot end my gladness: I am baptized into Christ!  
When I die, I leave all sadness to inherit paradise!  
Though I lie in dust and ashes faith's assurance brightly flashes:  
Baptism has the strength divine to make life immortal mine.
5. There is nothing worth comparing to this lifelong comfort sure!  
Open-eyed my grave is staring: Even there I'll sleep secure.  
Though my flesh awaits its raising, still my soul continues praising:  
I am baptized into Christ; I'm a child of paradise!

### **LSB395 O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright**

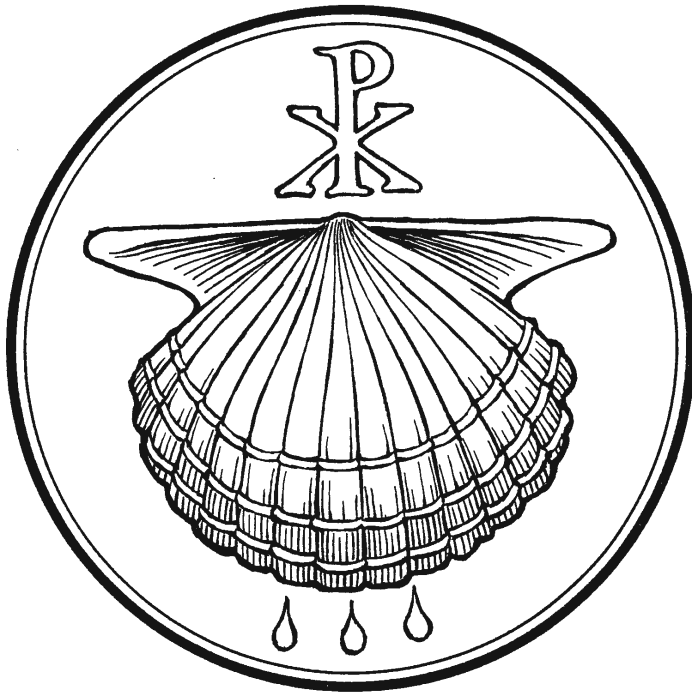
**Philipp Nicolai**

Text: © 1978 *Lutheran Service Book*; Used by permission. LSBHymnLicense.net #100012381.

1. O Morning Star, how fair and bright!  
You shine with God's own truth and light,  
Aglow with grace and mercy!  
Of Jacob's race, King David's Son,  
Our Lord and Master, You have won  
Our hearts to serve You only!  
Lowly, holy!  
Great and glorious, all victorious. Rich in blessing!  
Rule and might o'er all possessing!
2. Come, heav'nly Bridegroom, Light divine,  
And deep within our hearts now shine;  
There light a flame undying!  
In Your one body let us be  
As living branches of a tree,  
Your life our lives supplying.  
Now, though daily  
Earth's deep sadness May perplex us And distress us,  
Yet with heav'nly joy You bless us.

- W 3. Lord, when You look on us in love.  
At once there falls from God above  
A ray of purest pleasure.  
Your Word and Spirit, flesh and blood  
Refresh our souls with heav'nly food.  
You are our dearest treasure!  
Let Your mercy  
Warm and cheer us! O draw near us! For You teach us  
God's own love through You has reached us.
- M 4. Almighty Father, in Your Son  
You loved us, when not yet begun  
Was this old earth's foundation!  
Your Son has ransomed us in love  
To live in Him here and above:  
This is Your great salvation.  
Alleluia!  
Christ the living, to us giving Life forever,  
Keeps us Yours and fails us never!
5. O let the harps break forth in sound!  
Our joy be all with music crowned,  
Our voices gladly blending!  
For Christ goes with us all the way—  
Today, tomorrow, ev'ry day!  
His love is never ending!  
Sing out! Ring out!  
Jubilation! Exultation! Tell the story!  
Great is He, the King of Glory!
6. What joy to know, when life is past,  
The Lord we love is first and last,  
The end and the beginning!  
He will one day, oh, glorious grace,  
Transport us to that happy place  
Beyond all tears and sinning!  
Amen! Amen!  
Come, Lord Jesus! Crown of gladness! We are yearning  
For the day of Your returning!

# The First Sunday after the Epiphany



## Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

2313 Hanna Street, Fort Wayne, IN 46803 | 260-744-1389  
pastor@zionfw.org, church@zionfw.org | website: [www.zionfw.org](http://www.zionfw.org)

Zion Lutheran Church is the body of Christ at Hanna and Creighton in Fort Wayne, Indiana that:

- Receives Christ's gifts in Word and Sacraments; and
- Responds to God's love in Christ by
  - Reaching out to those who do not know His love; and
  - Revealing His love in acts of kindness and mercy.

### The Pastoral Ministry at Zion

Senior Pastor:  
Field Workers:

Rev. Douglas D. Punke, MDiv (341-5397)  
Paul Mroczenski, Matthew Harrison

### The Teaching Staff at Lutheran South Unity

Principal:  
Teachers:

Amber Bahr (744-0459; [www.lsusfw.org](http://www.lsusfw.org))  
Yvonne Schwantz (8<sup>th</sup>, ELA), Michael Cullen (7<sup>th</sup>, MS Science),  
Chase Mertz (6<sup>th</sup>, MS Social Studies), Danielle Ramsey (5<sup>th</sup>), John Kuker (4<sup>th</sup>),  
Abbey Zelt (3<sup>rd</sup>), John Fink (2<sup>nd</sup>), Hannah Maresh (1<sup>st</sup>),  
Karen Koehlert (K-A), Rachel Wiegman (K-B), Natalie Reynolds (Art & Music),  
Lizzy Hoham (Progress Partners Coach), Marcus Rush (K-5 PE)

### The Support Staff

Organist and Director of Parish Music:  
Church Office Manager:

Michael Hollman, MM  
Melvia Culpher

## PRAYERS FOR TODAY

- + For the church, especially those bearing the cross of persecution
- + For those who serve our Lord at home and abroad, especially our fieldworkers Paul Mroczenski and Matthew Harrison
- + For our nation; for our leaders; for our military, including James Hall; especially at this perilous time in our world
- + For our schools, especially Lutheran South Unity School, Concordia Lutheran High School, and Concordia Theological Seminary
- + For those who travel
- + For the aged and the homebound
- + For those who are on hospice care
- + For the ill, distressed, and those suffering affliction, including Sarah Hollman, Jessica Krause, Connie Houser, Bill Weinrich, Jason Kaiser, Janice Grim, Debra Busche, John Starks, Dwight Bieberich, Willodean Bates, Dick Hollman, Bob Ockree, David Evans, John A. Pless, Joe Harrison, Louisa Porter, Marlow Hogan, Gregory Hogan, Marissia White, Dwight Johnson, Sue Doepner, Blakely White, Joan Messmann, Ron Rastl, and Robert & Jenny Hobby
- + For God's blessing on all godly marriages
- + For the gift of life and for length of days, especially Ruth Albersmeyer
- + For the gift of rebirth by water and the Spirit
- + For those who mourn the death of loved ones
- + In remembrance of the faithful departed, including Fred Hill
- + For our communicants and for a fruitful use of the most Blessed Sacrament of our Lord's Body and Blood

## IN THE SERVICE TODAY

Today is the Divine Service for the First Sunday after Epiphany. DaVanna Seifert and family give the Cross Bowl in loving memory of Fred Hill on the occasion of his birthday. The Baptismal Bud Vase is given in celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> birthday of Ruth Albersmeyer by Rosie & Carl Albersmeyer. Please see the dedication insert. Please also complete an attendance/communion card, including the names of all children, and indicate if you are communing. Non-members, please read the back of the card.

## CALENDAR

### **January 7, 2024 thru January 13, 2024**

<b>SUN.</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>Divine Service</b>	<b>Church</b>
	10:30 AM	Education Hour	Various
<b>MON.</b>	3:45 PM	Jr. Catechesis	Conference Room
<b>TUES.</b>	9:30 AM	FW South Circuit	Trinity Lutheran
	7:00 PM	Everyone his Witness	Bauer Hall
<b>WED.</b>	9:30 AM	Men of Zion	Conference
	5:00 PM	LSA Board	LSUS
	<b>5:30 PM</b>	<b>Wednesday Divine Service</b>	<b>Church</b>
<b>THURS.</b>			
<b>FRI.</b>			
<b>SAT.</b>	9:00 AM	Zion Leadership Meeting	Bauer Hall
	11:00 AM	Private Confession	Church

### **January 14, 2024**

<b>SUN.</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>Divine Service</b>	<b>Church</b>
	10:30 AM	Education Hour	Various

## ZION ANNOUNCEMENTS

**EDUCATION HOUR:** Dr. Voelz will conduct Adult Bible Class in Bauer Hall. As needed, Sunday School will meet in the Assoc. Pastors Office.

**FROM THE CHURCH STAFF:** Thank you to Zion members and friends for your generous gifts during the holy season of Christmas. And thank you to everyone who helped in various ways during the Advent and Christmas seasons. Your service along with the festival services of good news helped make the holy days joyous.

**EVERYONE HIS WITNESS:** Bearing witness to our Lord Jesus can be intimidating. “I don’t feel qualified. The hearer may reject our witness; he or she may ask a question, and I won’t know the answer to it.” Etc. A stated goal for our Ministry Clarity plan is to provide an annual opportunity for providing resources and training for members to gain confidence in inviting neighbors to Zion. The elders investigated some resources and approved purchasing the Synod’s “Everyone His Witness” program for use at Zion. The training, which consists of six one-hour sessions, will be held on successive Tuesday evenings at 7:00 p.m., beginning this evening. The elders may invite you specifically, but if you would like to receive this training, call the church office. Seats are limited.

**FYI:** The annual giving statements are ready and on Julie’s table. They can be picked up after Divine service. Any statements that haven’t been picked up by January 21<sup>st</sup> will be mailed out on the Monday Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**SAVE THE DATE:** on January 28, 2024 after Divine Service, we will be holding our semi-annual Congregational Assembly in Bauer Hall. Officers: prepare your reports.

**NEXT YEAR’S OFFERING ENVELOPES** are on table in the Great Hall. Most are gone, but if you haven’t picked yours up yet, please stop and pick them up.

**MEMORY VERSE CHALLENGE:** John 1:14 —“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.” Last week’s verse was Isaiah 26:3

**LIFE DEFENDERS TRIP TO THE NATIONAL MARCH FOR LIFE:** College-aged and high school students are invited to join Right to Life of Northeast Indiana on a bus trip to the National March for Life in Washington, D.C. We leave the evening of January 17<sup>th</sup> and return home early morning on Saturday, January 20<sup>th</sup>. We want YOU on the bus with us for this life-changing experience! Learn more at [www.ichooselife.org/dc](http://www.ichooselife.org/dc) or call our office at 260-471-1849.

**RLNI:** Our Rally for Life will take place January 27<sup>th</sup> at the University of St. Francis Performing Arts Center, 431 W Berry St, Fort Wayne, at 12 pm; doors open at 11:30 am. Our keynote speaker this year will be State Senator Liz Brown, a passionate advocate for life in the Indiana General Assembly! The March for Life will start after the Rally. Also, the **2024 Legislative Forum** will be February 17<sup>th</sup>. Doors open at 9:00a with the event running from 9:30a-11:30a at the Historic Woman’s Club at 402 W Wayne St, Fort Wayne. There will be an all-new format. You will hear from legislators and organizations on where we stand on LIFE in Indiana. Breakfast is being served at a cost of \$5. Register for the Legislative Forum at [ichooselife.org](http://ichooselife.org).

**LISTEN TO LUTHERAN PROGRAMMING** You can listen to Issues, Etc. live or on-demand at [www.issuesetc.org](http://www.issuesetc.org) or on the LPR mobile app or to KFUE at [KFUE.org](http://KFUE.org). KFUE is the broadcast voice of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, sharing Christ for you anytime, anywhere via worship services, Bible and theology studies, practical talk programs, and sacred music. Find those programs on demand at [kfue.org](http://kfue.org) or wherever you get your podcasts!



**For the family of God's Priestly People at Zion**

**God calls His own people a "Royal Priesthood." God makes us kings and queens, princes and princesses** who are bound together by the Holy Spirit in Baptism for the Christian benefit of each other. Priests **PRAY** -- They talk to God about their neighbor! Priests **TEACH** -- They talk to their neighbor about God! Priests **OFFER SACRIFICES** -- They offer to God the sacrifice of broken and contrite hearts; they offer their bodies and work as holy services to God for their neighbors. Join in this priestly work of prayer with your fellow members.

**Morning Prayer**

Mark 1:4-11  
Romans 1:18-32  
Romans 2:1-16  
Romans 2:17-29  
Romans 3:1-18  
Romans 3:19-31  
Romans 4:1-25

**DAILY LECTIONARY**

**The First Sunday after the Epiphany**

Monday  
Tuesday  
Wednesday  
Thursday  
Friday  
Saturday

**Evening Prayer**

Genesis 1:1-5  
Ezekiel 2:1-3:11  
Ezekiel 3:12-27  
Ezekiel 18:1-4, 19-32  
Ezekiel 33:1-20  
Ezekiel 34:1-24  
Ezekiel 36:13-28

**THE DAILY PETITIONS OF THE CHURCH**

[Daily] **O Lord, have mercy upon us. O Christ, have mercy upon us. O Lord, have mercy upon us.** Let us pray:

[S] For the joy of the Resurrection among us; for true and godly worship throughout the world; for diligent preaching and hearing of God's Word of Law and Gospel; for our pastors; for the teachers and students of our Sunday School; for our Bible Class leaders and their students; for our catechumens; Lord, in Your mercy,..... **hear our prayer. Amen!**

[M] For workers; for the unemployed; for farmers; for seasonable weather; for businesses small and large; for our leaders, federal, state and local; for the economic welfare of the nations on earth; for peace in our world; Lord, in Your mercy, ..... **hear our prayer. Amen!**

[T] For the tempted; for the addicted and despairing; for the tortured and oppressed; for the lonely; for the sick, the hospitalized, and the needy; Lord, in Your mercy, ..... **hear our prayer. Amen!**

[W] For fathers, mothers, and families; for those adults who must rear their children alone; the teachers and students of Lutheran South Unity School and Concordia Lutheran High School; Lord, in Your mercy, ..... **hear our prayer. Amen!**

[T] For the Church and her pastors; for the training of ministers of the Word; for missionaries of the Church; for the leaders of the Church, including Matthew, our synod president, and Richard, our district president; for those who have not heard the Gospel; for the fruitful use of the blessed Sacrament of the Lord's Body and Blood; Lord, in Your mercy,..... **hear our prayer. Amen!**

[F] For the preaching of the Cross; for those persecuted for the sake of Gospel; the confession of the orthodox Lutheran faith in our community; Lord, in Your mercy, ..... **hear our prayer. Amen!**

[Sat] For faithfulness unto life's earthly end; for the revival of those who have withered in the faith or fallen away; for the dying; Lord, in Your mercy, ..... **hear our prayer. Amen!**

[Daily] **The Our Father**

**TO PREPARE FOR NEXT SUNDAY**

**The Second Sunday after the Epiphany**

1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20)

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

John 1:43-51



# What Doctor Luther Says:

*About God's Works and Word Whereby We Know Him  
And the Spirit of the Lord hovered over the waters.*

...

[I]t is ... to my liking that we understand Spirit to mean the Holy Spirit. Wind is a creature which at that time did not yet exist, since so far those masses of heaven and earth lay mixed together. Indeed, it is the great consensus of the church that the mystery of the Trinity is set forth here, The Father creates heaven and earth out of nothing through the Son, whom Moses calls the Word. Over these the Holy Spirit broods. As a hen broods her eggs, keeping them warm in order to hatch her chicks, and, as it were, to bring them to life through heat, so Scripture says that the Holy Spirit brooded, as it were, on the waters to bring to life those substances which were to be quickened and adorned. For it is the office of the Holy Spirit to make alive. ...

God ... does not manifest Himself except through His works and the Word, because the meaning of these is understood in some measure. Whatever else belongs essentially to the Divinity cannot be grasped and understood, such as being outside time, before the world, etc. ...

It is folly to argue much about God outside and before time, because this is an effort to understand the Godhead without a covering, or the uncovered divine essence. Because this is impossible, God envelops Himself in His works in certain forms, as today He wraps Himself up in Baptism, in absolution, etc. If you should depart from these, you will get into an area where there is no measure, no space, no time, and into the merest nothing, concerning which, according to the philosopher, there can be no knowledge. Therefore we justly pass over this question and are satisfied with the simple explanation of the phrase "in the beginning."

*Luther's Works*, 1:9, 11.

# EVERY ONE HIS WITNESS

LUTHERAN EVANGELISM®



Learn how to naturally and genuinely share the Gospel with your friends and neighbors who have not heard the Good News. After this program, you will be more effective witnesses of Jesus in your everyday life!